

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 131325Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4254
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0459

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EIND, BU, JA, UR
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE THIRD METALLURGICAL
 COMPLEX; ZHIVKOV'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: SOFIA 388 (NOTAL)

1. OCCASION OF ZHIVKOV'S VISIT TO JAPAN HAS PRODUCED
INTERESTING STORY FROM YUGOSLAV AND JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES HERE. REPORT IS THAT DURING ZHIVKOV'S MAY-
JUNE 1977 VISIT TO MOSCOW, HE ONCE AGAIN MADE STRONG
PITCH TO SOVIETS FOR GO-AHEAD (I.E., COMMITMENT ON
FINANCING AND RAW MATERIALS) FOR BULGARIANS LONG-
AWAITED THIRD METALLURGICAL COMPLEX. ACCORDING TO
REPORT, SOVIETS TURNED HIM DOWN FLATLY, NOTING SHORT-
RUN UNAVAILABILITY OF FINANCING AND UNCERTAIN LONG-
RANGE AVAILABILITY OF NECESSARY RAW MATERIALS, AND
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SUGGESTING IN GENERAL THAT A THIRD BULGARIAN METALLURGICAL
COMPLEX DID NOT FIT INTO OVERALL CEMA PLANNING FOR
BULGARIA IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. REPORT HAS IT THAT
ZHIVKOV WILL NOW ASK JAPANESE TO CONSIDER FINANCING AND
CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLEX.

2. ZHIVKOV MADE TWO STOPS IN USSR ON HIS WAY TO JAPAN.
MARCH 11-13, ONE AT OMSK AND ONE AT Khabarovsk. BULGARIAN
PRESS MARCH 12-13 IS EVEN MORE THAN USUALLY EFFUSIVE IN
ITS TRIBUTE TO THE USSR, INCLUDING FRONT-PAGE PAEAN FROM
ZHIVKOV AND PRIME MINISTER STANKO TODOROV TO BREZHNEV
AND KOSYGIN ON "INTERCOSMOS" FLIGHTS.
GARTHOFF

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Message Attributes

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